

It is July and here is your 7th Climate Change action letter of the year. Please send to all your interested friends and keep writing those letters. They are important and make a difference.

**CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FOR THE MONTH
July 2007**

WHO TO WRITE AND WHAT TO ASK FOR:

Write to Stephen Harper and Gordon Campbell, with copies to Stéphane Dion, Gilles Duceppe, Jack Layton, and Elizabeth May if you have time. Insist that our federal elected representatives honour our 1972 oil and gas tanker moratorium and vote in favour of M-345. All elected officials, both Provincial and Federal, as well as candidates for federal office, should be asked to join together in upholding and strengthening the 1972 tanker moratorium.

We must empathize that the 1972 moratorium is a federal moratorium and should not be considered just a provincial one. If the moratorium is ignored, we can expect an even more frenetic effort to scabble for every last globule of crude from the tar sands. All the people of Canada will pay a price for this.

Moreover, we should ask that the whole issue of extracting oil from the tar sands for export and supporting this project with government subsidies be re-examined. The people of B.C. and Canada must be given the opportunity to have their say.

Will Horter, Executive Director of the Dogwood Initiative, has asked that your letters be copied to him as well so they can track volume and substance. His address is whorter@dogwoodinitiative.org.

BACKGROUND:

The issue before us is directly related to the looming climate crisis. We know that the Alberta Tar Sands mega-project is already causing one third of Canada's CO2 emissions and that, thanks to government subsidies, it is fifteen years ahead of schedule. What has gone unnoticed by most of the people of Canada and BC is that plans are underway to facilitate the movement of Alberta crude via pipelines across Alberta and BC to our coastline. This, of course, will require that oil tankers enter our northern waters and dock at Kitimat and Prince Rupert to export Canadian crude to the US and other countries overseas. What stands in the way of this is our 1972 tanker moratorium...

...But on June 10 of this year, the 1972 moratorium against oil and gas tankers was declared by Federal Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn to have never existed. "There has never been a moratorium," he said. "There has been a "voluntary exclusion zone" (quotation marks added) for tanker traffic that comes from Alaska down to the Strait of Juan de Fuca." Moreover, provincial Energy Minister Richard Neufeld and Transport Canada state that "In B.C.'s view, the federal moratorium is solely directed at oil-tanker traffic transiting the B. C. coast, not oil tankers sailing to or from B. C. ports." These statements are taken from the Victoria Times-Columnist, "Two Takes on Tankers," on June 10.

Again from the T-C, "Five pipeline projects are in various stages of application and approval." There are actually six projects. One is already in existence: the Methanex/Encana project, which imports condensate to Kitimat. Condensate is toxic liquid natural gas product used to dilute thick crude oil and is presently being sent to Alberta by rail. The proposed Enbridge/Gateway project would lay two 1,100-km pipelines from Kitimat to the tar sands: one to send condensate to Alberta; the second to pipe up to 1,000,000 barrels of crude per day back to the coast for export to California and other ports across the sea. The other four proposed projects are of equal concern, involving liquid natural gas terminals in both Kitimat and Prince Rupert and at least three more pipelines connecting BC and Alberta. These projects could require up to 320 tankers a year carrying oil, condensate and gas into the treacherous northern waters of BC.

The governing Conservatives appear to be trying to confuse the well-documented 34-year old tanker moratorium with the voluntary Tanker Exclusion Zone (TEZ) imposed in 1988 referred to above. The TEZ was adopted voluntarily by the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards as well as the American Institute of Merchant Shipping and only applies to traffic moving from Alaska to the United States.

The 1972 tanker moratorium was first breached a year ago, on June 26. An oil tanker carrying approximately 350,000 barrels of "condensate" entered BC's inside passage bound for the Methanex/Encana marine terminal. (Condensate is a toxic mix of chemicals and petroleum derivatives used to dilute thick crude oil.) This tanker traveled through Caamano Sound and 166 km up Douglas Channel to Kitimat, past the site where the BC ferry *Queen of the North* recently sank. The tanker offloaded its condensate onto railcars for transport along the southern reaches of the Skeena River to Encana's operations in Alberta.

According to information received from Transport Canada by the Dogwood Initiative, the tanker moratorium has been breached a total of ten times in the last 12 months.

Former Environment Minister David Anderson and long time anti-tanker crusader was instrumental in getting the tanker moratorium established in 1972 and has been defending it ever since. He is exasperated with Gary Lunn's denial.

"It doesn't make logical sense to say we did not commit to keeping tankers off the coast," said Mr. Anderson, the retired Victoria Liberal MP. "That is basically wrong. We did!"

According to Will Horter of the Dogwood Initiative, Victoria-based environmental think-tank, "Lunn's 'no tanker moratorium' claim is pure fiction. Since 1972, dozens of government documents, commissions, panel reports and official statements have attested to the existence of the tanker moratorium. In fact, as recently as 2003 the staff of Natural Resources Canada (Minister Lunn's own ministry) prepared a chronology (quoted in the article) which confirms the existence of the tanker moratorium. The chronology said, "*In 1972, the Government of Canada imposed a moratorium on crude oil tanker traffic through Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait, and Queen Charlotte Sound due to concerns over the potential environmental impacts. The moratorium was subsequently extended to include oil and gas activities. This was followed by a similar prohibition by the Government of British Columbia.*"

Minister Lunn has yet to produce one federal government document dated before the Harper government took power that proves his claim that no oil tanker moratorium exists.”

Denise Savoie, NDP MP for Victoria has presented a motion, M-354, to the House of Commons calling on Parliament to reaffirm the moratorium on coastal drilling and to affirm a formal moratorium on international tanker traffic. Her motion seeks to ban international tanker traffic in the northern B.C. waters of Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. She says she wants parliamentary hearings with public participation on the issue when MPs return to Ottawa in the fall.

REFERENCES:

On the Map with Avi Lewis: the Alberta Tar Sands:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsbUgj1t8A8

Methanex, Encana Violate 34-year old Oil Tanker Moratorium
From Georgia Strait Alliance June 26, 2006:
<http://www.georgiastrait.org/Articles2006/methanex-tanker.php>

Will Horter’s Letter to the Editor in The Victoria Times-Columnist on June 13:
<http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/inthenews/lunndeadwrong>

Letter to the Editor in the Driftwood on June 20 describing the six oil and gas pipeline related projects pending for Kitimat and Prince Rupert:
http://gulfislands.net/blogs/blog_letters/?p=32

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) Examines Medium- and Long-term Scenarios for GHG Emission and Air Pollutant Reductions in Interim Report to the Minister of the Environment:
<http://www.marketwire.com/2.0/release.do?id=746576>

Information and online petitions at www.notankers.org and www.dogwoodinitiative.org.

(I have numerous other references and articles available on request.)

ADDRESSES:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2 Fax: 613-941-6900
pm@pm.gc.ca

The Hon. Stéphane Dion
Leader of the Liberal Party
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 613-996-5789
dion.s@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Gilles Duceppe
[Bloc Québécois](#)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 613-992-6779
Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Jack Layton
Leader of the NDP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 613-995-4565
Layton.J@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Gary Lunn
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 613-996-1119 or 250-656-2320
Lunn.g@parl.gc.ca

Elizabeth May
Green Party of Canada
PO Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R1 Toll-free: 1-866-868-3447 (1-866-VOTE-4-GPC)
leader@greenparty.ca

The Hon. Denise Savoie
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 613-996-2358
Savoie.d@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Gordon Campbell, Premier
Premier P.O. Box 9041
Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1 Ph: 250-387-1715
E-mail: premier@gov.bc.ca

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN OUR RIDING:

Briony Penn 653-9996
penn@saltspring.com

Andrew Lewis 653-4770
alewis@island.net

Julian West (250) 984-0716
julian@julianwest.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Will Horter, Executive Director, Dogwood Initiative: 250-882.9930

Oonagh O'Connor, Offshore Oil and Gas Campaign Coordinator, Living Oceans Society:
250-973-6580

Christianne Wilhelmson, Program Coordinator, Georgia Strait Alliance: 604-633-0530

Sabine Jessen, Conservation Director, CPAWS: 604-657-2813

**Colin Campbell, Marine Campaign Coordinator, Sierra Club of Canada—BC Chapter: 250
386-5255 x236**

Jessica Clogg, Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law: 604-601-2501

Dorothy Cutting: 537-5853 or dorothy@cuttingup.net